

each was electric, the bear stamping bounding and roaring with all the air of a conqueror, and it was not until the

Nicholas rises at an early hour, and goes soon to the business of the day after taking a short walk. The most scrupulous order reigns in his study, the walls are adorned with pictures of religious costumes. The furniture is elegant and comfortable, but there is no where to be seen a trace of needless ornament. The dinner usually takes but little time, for it is served quickly, while the dishes are comparatively few. The Czar eats heartily, but is very moderate in his drink. He seldom smokes, and is usually occupied in reading. He has two or three cups of very strong tea, and spends the interval between that and bed time at some game. Despite his regularity of life, which is necessarily much interrupted by receptions, travels, &c., the Czar is "no slave to his clock." According to those who have had the best opportunity of judging, his relation to the Empress is simple, yet noble—an expression that undoubtedly admits of varied interpretations. Wo-

men are not without their influence at his Court. In 1846 a young lieutenant of the Guards distinguished himself with Lady Dashkoff, so much, to hear and see the fact, that he was soon after made a captain as one of the mid-dle camps to the Czar. His friends composed a new polka, which they dedicated to him, under the ironical title of the "Promotion Polka." It is not probable that the Emperor has a feeling of parental feeling on the part of Nicholas, at least he did not display it in any lively degree while his children yet remained young. The Grand Duchess Olga, the Princess Alexandra, and the Grand Duke Constantine were frequently in the Emperor's presence, but judging outwardly since they have been grown up, a large amount of formality and ceremony has accompanied their intercourse. Custine, in his work on *Russia* in 1839, says: "Nicholas forgets his family and his private life, while he remembers that man who has become independent of state duties. There is, however, a degree of coquetry in the domestic life of the Winter Palace."

Persons well acquainted with the Imperial family assert, that though Nicholas may love his children, *family*, yet

towards his sons a serious and cold demeanor, while his behavior to his daughters is chivalrous in the extreme; but this is the conduct which he generally adopts towards ladies. The weak and dissipated nature of his mind is not susceptible of affection; we can find no better word. When from indisposition he is confined to her apartment, he frequently visits there; and the newspapers which are always loud in praise of his undiminished affection, mentioned that at the end of the last winter he had been in 1840, he used to carry her in his arms up the staircase to her chambers. During the burning of the Winter Palace in 1838 (says Gratchev) Count Orloff reported to the Emperor that the fire was about to affect the Empress's apartments; he hastened to study, and he told him what he desired to be saved in it, as no time was to be lost. "Only my portfolio," was the reply: "It contains the letters of the Empress which she wrote to me during our engagement."—*Michelsen's History.*

revel, was so surprised at his composure and serenity, that she cried out, "My dear are you not afraid? How is it possible that you are so calm in such a dreadful storm."

He rose from his chair, drew his sword and pointed it at the breast of his wife, and exclaimed—

"Are you not afraid?"

She instantly answered "No."

"Why?"

"Because," rejoined the wife, "I knew this sword is in the hand of my husband and he loves me too well to hurt me."

"Then," said he, "remember I know in whom I believe, and he who holds the sword of his country is bound to strike the hallow of his hand is my father."

THE GREAT PRIZE.—Cornwallis' army had just surrendered to Washington, and Washington was marching in triumph to Philadelphia, when he stopped at Providence, Rhode Island, to visit another Cannon, boomed, bells pealed, and the people came in crowds to the city, to meet the conqueror. We will not describe the meeting between the mother and son, who had not met for eight years, but will say that the mother, in her husband's soldier, and in flowing lavender

spoke to her of the greatness of her son. The mother's reply, says one, conveyed one of the wisest lessons ever uttered: "I am not surprised," said she, "for George was a good boy." True greatness, then, children, must be founded on goodness.

LESSON 2. SAID JOHN HERSCHEL, he declared, that if he were to pray for a taste which should stand him instead of every variety of circumstances, and be a source of happiness and cheerfulness to him through life, and a shield against his ills, whatever things might go amiss, and the world frown upon him, it would be a taste for reading. "Give a man, he said, this taste, and the means of gratifying it, and he will cast aside all making his way to heaven, and will be ever in contact with the best society of all ages, with tenderness, the bravest, and the purest men who have adorned humanity, making him a denizen of all nations, a contemporary of all times, and finding him practical proof that the world is a better place than he fears, for his solace, and for his enjoyment."